Import of Sugar

*2. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Pioneer of June 18, 1994 under the caption, 'Even as Government pay $ 400 a tonne... Co-op body to import sugar at $300;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) how much sugar has been imported through STC and MMTC separately, month-wise from January to June, 1994 and at what cost;

(d) what is the quantity and value of sugar to be imported month-wise during the current year;

(e) whether there is any proposal to provide subsidy to imported sugar, if so, what is the extent of subsidy and what are the reasons therefor;

(f) which are the cooperative bodies which have recently imported or are importing sugar and at what cost;

(g) what are the reasons for a wide difference in the cost at which sugar is imported by STC/MMTC and Co-operative bodies; and,

(h) what steps Government have so far taken to ensure coordination between the different departments of Government concerned with the import of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For augmenting the supplies to PDS, STC & MMTC has so far finalised import of about 8.66 lakh tonnes of sugar. In addition, Min. of Food have intimated that various private parties have also contracted for import of 8.91 lakh tonnes of sugar till 20th July, 1994 under OGL. According to available information NAFED has not imported any sugar so far.

(c) and (d) During April-June '94 STC & MMTC have contracted for import of about 8 lakh tonnes of sugar. In July 94, a further quantity of 64,000 tonnes of sugar has been contracted for import. Details of the quantity and the purchase price of sugar being imported month-wise by both the Corporations during the current year are given below:—

Shipment Month	STC		MMTC	
	*Qnty. (MT)	C&F value in milli on US$	*Qnty.	C&F value in million US$
June. 1994	70000	28.99	69600	26.93
July. 1994	95000	37.54	160000	61.25
Aug.. 1994	158000	61.73	182000	69.78
Sept. 1994	53000	20.76	26000	9.95
Oct.. 1994	52000	19.76		

Cut of the above, a Qnty. of 42.034 tonnes of sugar has already arrived at Indian shores in June. 1994.

* Contacted quantity is subject to 5 10% plus/minus shipping tolerance as per espectiven contract terms.

(e) FCI under the Ministry of Food has been authorised to take delivery of sugar imported by STC/MMTC and arrange for its distribution. These operations would be financed by FCI and the deficit would be reimbursed to them through subsidy by the Food Ministry so that sugar is made available to consumers under the PDS at the approved issue price.

(f) and (g) OGL imports by bodies other than state agencies like STC & MMTC are being monitored by the Ministry of Food. According to available information, the prices at which STC & MMTC have imported sugar are in line with the import prices of other Indian importers.

(h) To ensure uninterruped supply of sugar for PDS, two monitoring committees have been constituted under the chairmanships of Commerce Secretary and Secretary, Ministry of Civil Supplies, CA & PD respectively to take care of policy as well as operational aspects of sugar import. Periodical meetings of these committee are being held for assessing the situation and for taking remedial action, wherever required.

Socio-economic and environmental Elements in ESCAP Agenda

*3. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government in the light of Prime Minister's concern at the last ESCAP summit to the effect that developing countries should not allow the developed countries to induct socio-economic and environmental elements in the agenda or objectives of the World Trade Organisations, even in thinly veiled from, under any such pretext or pretensions to nullify the comparative advantages that the developing countries enjoy; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to bring about a firm consensus on this stand of the Prime Minister amongst the developing nations and with what success so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India has been in consultation with various countries in appropriate fora to urge that while developing and developed countries alike must share actions to deal with genuine social and environmental concerns, these should not become devices for protectionism. Most developing countries share this perspective.

ग्रेनाइट का निर्यात

* 4. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत का अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में ग्रेनाइट के निर्यात में शीर्ष स्थान है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि भारत को इस क्षेत्र में अन्य देशों से कड़ी प्रति स्पर्धा का सामना करना पड़ रहा है ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में ग्रेनाइट के निर्यात के क्षेत्र में बड़े पैमाने पर चीन, दक्षिण कोरिया तथा कनाडा जैसे देशों के प्रवेश से भारत का स्थान शीर्ष से तीसरा हो गया है : और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ग्रेनाइट का निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिये क्या क्या कदम उठा रहा है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) भारत से ग्रेनाइट का निर्यात जो वर्ष 1992–93 में 504 करोड़ रू० मूल्य का हुआ था वह वर्ष 1993–94